This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing financial instrument data to identify stock option spreads, in a computer system, comprising:

receiving at a computer system financial data from at least one data source;

processing at the computer system the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock option spreads;

receiving at the computer system user defined search criteria for searching the searchable parameters corresponding to the stock option spreads;

searching at the computer system the values derived for the set of searchable parameters for values having the user defined search criteria; and

identifying at the computer system a set of option spreads corresponding to values for the set of searchable parameters matching the user defined search criteria.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of processing the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock option spreads comprises processing the financial data to derive values for at least one of the following: bull-put spreads; bear call spreads; collar spreads; strangle spreads; butterfly spreads; straddle spreads; and calendar spreads.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of processing the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock option spreads comprises the step of processing the financial data to derive values for at least one of the following searchable parameters: Black-Scholes ratio; option volume percentage; implied volatility; percentage to double; industry groupings; recommended listings; and percentage return on an option spread.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

transmitting to a user a series of questions regarding investment preferences;

receiving responses to said series of questions; and

formulating from said responses, search criteria for searching the searchable parameters.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a request to execute one of the set of option spreads; and

forwarding said request to execute one of the set of option spreads to a brokerage computer system operable to execute trades on stocks and stock options, wherein said request entails executing trades on a plurality of stock options.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a set of option spreads comprises formatting a listing of option strategies corresponding to values derived for said set of searchable parameters matching the user defined search criteria.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6., wherein said step of formatting a listing of option spreads comprises the step of formatting a chain of option spreads, said chain of option spreads including a list of option spreads having options expiring in the same month.

8. (Original) A method for formulating searches of financial instruments in a computer system, comprising:

transmitting to a user a series of questions regarding investment preferences;

receiving responses to said series of questions;

formulating from said responses, search criteria; and

executing a search of a searchable database of financial instruments using said search criteria.

9. (Original) A method for processing trades in a computer system of financial instrument strategies including multiple financial instruments, comprising:

receiving a request to execute a trade of a financial instrument strategy;

formulating a trade request defining trades to be executed on a plurality of financial instruments included in the financial instrument strategy; and

routing the trade request to a brokerage.

10. (Original) A system for processing financial instrument data to identify stock option spreads, comprising:

a communication device for receiving data from external systems;

a processing device in communication with said communication device, wherein said processing device is programmed to perform the following:

receive financial data via said communication device from at least one data source;

process the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock option spreads;

receive user defined search criteria for searching the searchable parameters corresponding to the stock option spreads;

search the values derived for the set of searchable parameters for values having the user defined search criteria; and

identify a set of option spreads corresponding to values for the set of searchable parameters matching the user defined search criteria.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of receiving financial data from at least one data source comprises the step of receiving for at least one stock option, at least one of the following: option symbol; underlying stock symbol; stock as price; option expiration date; option strike price; option bid; option volume; open interest; p/e ratio; average recommendation; the number of common shares outstanding; beta; company name; and Zack's indicator.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3 , wherein said step of processing the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock option spreads further comprises the step of receiving at least one of the following: percentage if not assigned; percentage if assigned; percentage earnings per share growth; percentage range; stock percentage volume; percentage yield; delta; and historical price volatility.

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of processing the financial data to derive values for a set of searchable parameters corresponding to stock option spreads comprises the step of processing the financial data to derive the percentage return on a stock option spread.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining if the user defined search criteria are operable for searching the searchable parameters.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of receiving user defined search criteria for searching the searchable parameters comprises the step of receiving search criteria for at least one of the following: percentage return; net credit; stock price of underlying stock; percentage earnings per share growth; price to earnings ratio; percentage of range between the year's high and low stock price; average broker recommendation; percentage change in volume; number of shares outstanding; percent yield; beta; and volatility.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said step of receiving user defined search criteria for searching the searchable parameters further comprises the step of receiving search criteria identifying an industry segment.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein said step of receiving user defined search criteria for searching the searchable parameters further comprises the step of receiving search criteria identifying a recommended list.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, wherein said step of receiving search criteria identifying a recommended list comprises the step of receiving search criteria identifying a user defined customized list.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of receiving sorting criteria for sorting stock option spreads.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 19, wherein said step of receiving sorting criteria for sorting stock option spreads comprises the step of receiving criteria identifying sorting stock option spreads by at least one of the following: percent return; net credit; stock price; option bid price; option volume; open interest; percentage option volume; company name; percentage earnings per share; price to earnings ratio; percentage range; average brokerage recommendation; percentage volume; shares outstanding; expiration date; percentage yield; beta; volatility; Black-Scholes ratio; delta; implied volatility; and percent to double.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said step of receiving sorting criteria further comprises the step of receiving criteria identifying sorting on options coming due in a particular month.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said step of receiving sorting criteria further comprises the step of receiving criteria identifying sorting results from high-to-low or low-to-high.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of receiving user defined search criteria comprises the step of receiving criteria identifying searching for stock option spreads in-the-money or stock option spreads out-of-the-money.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of identifying a set of option spreads corresponding to values for the set of searchable parameters matching the user defined search criteria comprises the step of compiling a list of stock option spreads, wherein the list identifies for each stock option spread at least one of the following: stock symbol; stock price; option symbol; strike price; bid; ask; percentage return on spread; net credit; break even; volatility; and company name.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of saving user defined search criteria for searching the searchable parameters corresponding to the stock option spreads.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 25, further comprising, in response to a user request, the step of searching the values derived for the set of searchable parameters for values having the saved user defined search criteria.

27. (Previously Presented) In a computer system programmed to manage a portfolio of stocks or stock options, a method of providing alerts comprising the steps of:

detecting an event associated with a portfolio of stocks or stock options;

formatting a suggested action to be taken with respect to the portfolio in response to the event; and

presenting the suggested action to a user of the system.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 27, wherein said step of detecting an event associated with a portfolio comprises the step of detecting a value for at least one of the following: percent profit; day of the year; percentage loss; percent change in value; amount of premium relative to the Black-Scholes value; and actual price relative to the strike price.